

Reward Your Friends
Democrats Are Invited to
Take the Party Paper.

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1895.

Weather Today:

FORECAST—Slightly cooler,
probably light rain this
afternoon.

NUMBER 294

WYOMING'S LATE HORROR

Norman B. Dresser Tells the
Story of the Tragedy.

RESCUERS' GALLANT WORK

What Was the Cause of the
Explosion?

The Theories Are Almost as Numerous
as the Victims—Precautions
Taken—Case Will Be Thoroughly
Investigated and the Blame
Fixed Where It Belongs.

I have just returned from the little
cemetery at Almy, where thirty-two of
the victims of the mine explosion last
Wednesday were laid to rest.

Governor Richards has sent out an
appeal for charity and it is hoped there
will be a speedy and generous response.

The Town of Almy.

Almy is a village of several hundred
cabins scattered along Bear river,
about five miles north of Bonanza.
The cabins are one story board or log
dwellings, unpainted, unfenced and
unimproved for the most part. The red-
dish brown hills above the river on
the west are covered with patches of
snow. Under the eastern hills lie the
veins of coal. Here and there great
dumps of black and smoking slack dis-
figure the hillsides. Around the black
pit's mouth are ruined engine
houses and forsaken cabins, showing
the location of a worked out and
abandoned mine. There are many such
places and they add to the desolation of
the scene. Even under summer skies,
with the river unloosed and its banks
fringed by the green fringing of the
willows, Almy would not be a cheerful
and inspiring place. But in March,
with a keen air blowing and under
the shadow of death and disaster, it is
desolate indeed.

The Fatal Spot.

No. 5 mine, where the explosion oc-
curred last Wednesday, is one of two
mines owned and operated by the
Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron com-
pany, another name for the Central
Pacific railway company. The force of
the explosion blew the timbering from
the mouths of the slopes, wrecked the
fan house and demolished a portion of
the engine house. It did not seriously
injure the mine and work can be re-
sumed within a short time. Of the
sixty-one persons killed, fifty were
married men, and many of them
left large families. Eight were Fin-
landers, two were Austrians, and the
rest were English, Scotch and Welsh.

Immediately after the explosion, Su-
perintendent Bradbury called for vol-
unteers to go down in the mine. One
of the first to respond was William
Graham, foreman of No. 6, whose son
was one of the victims. Under his
charge, ready hands on the cleared away
the timbers from the main-way, and
within four hours, the first body was
taken out. Graham thought it was his
son, but this did not make him dis-
continue his search for other bodies.

Searching for Victims.

From that hour until after six
o'clock Saturday evening, a gang of six-
teen men, continued the search. The
bodies were found scattered along No.
7 and 8 entries, which are 1,600 feet
from the mouth of the slope. On Sat-
urday morning, one of the bodies was
found. They were those of William
Sellers, Sr., Hugh Sloan and Walter
Miller. Nearly all the bodies found
were mutilated. The first body was
found in a position which was felt to
be more or less mutilated, having been
thrown violently against the sides of
the slope or entry. Those further away
from the slope were unharmed. From
the position of some of these bodies it
appeared as if the men had had a
moment's warning and had thrown
themselves face downward in the entry
with their arms over their heads for
protection. One man had crawled
eight or ten feet along the entry after
being stricken down. These men had
evidently been suffocated by the after
damp rather than killed outright by the
force of the explosion.

Badly Mutilated.

As the bodies were brought up they
were laid in the blacksmith shop where
they were mutilated and dressed. The
bodies were identified only by their
clothes, the buttons, or initials pegged
into the bottom of the shoes. The
task of washing and dressing the
corpses was an awful one, particularly those which were brought
up last. But Mr. Cashin, who had
charge of this work, kept at it till the
last body was decently prepared for
burial Saturday night.

Superintendent Bradbury did every-
thing possible for the victims and their
families. He feels the accident very
much. He has paid for the funeral
expenses of the families. He has paid
for the bodies, the lots in which the bodies
were buried, and all other expenses of
the funeral.

What was the cause of the explosion
and how far was the company respon-
sible for the terrible loss of life? To
settle these points I talked freely with
many of the men. Also with Superin-
tendent Bradbury, Mine Inspector
George Black, of the Union Pacific
mines, who is up rendering what help
he can, and Foreman Griffiths, of Rock
Springs.

Theories Numerous.

Many of the miners hold to the the-
ory that it was a gas explosion and
blatantly denounce the company as re-
sponsible for the accident. Others ad-
mit that, as the company took every
precaution against accidents from gas,
it was one of the best, if not the
very best, ventilated mine in the state.
Inspector Thomas tells me that his
own inspection of the reports of
Foreman Bruce showed 1,000 cubic feet
of air per minute for every man work-
ing in the mine. James Bruce had
been foreman for eighteen years and
was a most competent and careful
man. In fact, many of the men dis-
liked him because they thought he was
too particular.

Joseph Bird, the gas watchman, was
a thoroughly qualified man. It was
his duty to go through the mine every
morning before the men went down to
work and inspect it for gas. If a room
was all right he chalked it on the min-
e's ledger or shovelled. If he found gas, a

notice to that effect was left. In addi-
tion to this the gas watchman stood
at the mouth of the mine and notified
each man in whose room any gas had
been found not to go to work until the
room had been cleared. It therefore
seems as if every precaution had been
taken which a desire for safety could
suggest.

Was Not Gas.

Superintendent Bradbury and Inspec-
tor Thomas do not think it was a gas
explosion. They think the accident
was due to the firing of coal dust.
The mine is a very dry one. The pas-
sage of the mules and cart up and
down the entries had ground the coal
to impalpable dust with which the air
was filled. The firing of a number of
blasts just before the explosion added
to the volume of dust. It only
needed the communication of fire under
certain conditions to ignite the im-
palpable material.

He Pays Grand Tribute to Wil- liam I.

EX-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH.

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ALL HONOR TO BISMARCK.

Celebration of the Birthday of
Germany's Grand Old
Man.

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must help him to execute not only a
policy for Brandenburg or Prussia, but
also an imperial German policy. With
this thought I beg you to join me in
cheers for his majesty. Long live his
majesty, the emperor and king."

The toast was received with thunder-
ous applause, and when the enthusiasm
had subsided, three cheers were given
for Prince Bismarck, who, in response,
said: "Gentlemen, I thank you for the
honor you have done me. I thank you
again and again and I wish that I
could give you all a best, but I was
obliged to take this house as I find
and I never thought I should end my
days here. I have always felt too old
for this kind of thing. Long live his
majesty, the emperor and king. I can
even console myself with the
sentiment that for a loving pair there
is room enough in the smallest cottage.
(Great laughter.) and there is no
room enough here for four hundred of
my fellow countrymen, who all love
each other."

This happy response from the old
chancellor, whose eyes were now
twinkling with merriment, was greeted
with the loudest and most prolonged
applause.

The speaker then gave three tremen-
dous "hoops" for Prince Bismarck.
Then Prince Bismarck led the cheers
for the emperor, which were enthusias-
tically given. At the luncheon
Count St. Vrain-Wernigerode, who re-
cently resigned the presidency of East
Prussia, proposed Prince Bismarck's
health in a short speech.

The special trains returned to Berlin
at 2:30 p. m.

Emperor William is expected here to
visit Prince Bismarck tomorrow and
will be accompanied by his son, Prince
Friedrich Wilhelm. Prince Bismarck
received the emperor and his suite with
deputations today, despite the un-
pleasant warnings of his physician, Dr.
Schweninger, and his secretary, Mr.
Chrystianer, and he will be urged to
celebrate his 80th birthday with the
whole of the German people.

A desire to testify their love and
admiration for the old chancellor was
a spontaneous and general one
throughout the country.

The programme of the celebration
covers an entire week and a delega-
tion from the army and various political
and civic clubs will attend each day.
Banquets and grand displays of fire-
works will be given each night and
many magnificent and various will be
presented to the aged chancellor.

The parliamentary deputation re-
turned to Berlin this evening, and all
the members expressed themselves as
being very much pleased with the recep-
tion. During the lunch at the prince's resi-
dence, the old ex-chancellor was in
high spirits and he led the conversa-
tion in an animated and cheerful
manner. He reminded his guests that
the year 1895 marks the jubilee of his
entrance into parliamentary service.

MONETARY CONFERENCE.

OPINIONS OF PROMINENT GERMAN OFFICIALS.

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